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VICK'S

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

Vick Publishing Co. }
Fifty Cents Per Year. }

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1896.

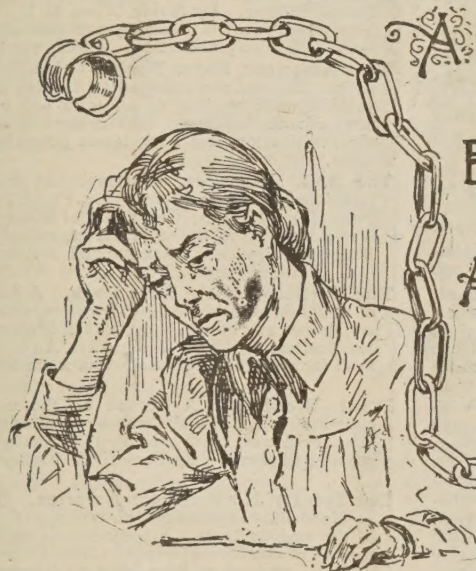
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New Series. }

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DEPARTMENT OF

AGRICULTURE



A face with features pinched and thin
A voice so sharp 'tis nigh a sin;
Eyes wearied, heavy, reddened, dull,
With tears, alas, too often full,
A struggling woman without hope,
Her endless cleaning done with
soap.



A face filled out once more to youth,
A happy laugh, 'tis music sooth,
And bright eyes full of peace and joy
Seem dancing to its melody.
What is the charm? Wise women know
And find it in— **SAPOLIO.**



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baskets, climbing plants, ornamental-leaved, masses of color, and for constant and brilliant bloom.

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VICK PUBLISHING COMPANY, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

VICKS MAGAZINE

VOL. 20

ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1896

No. 1

BRANCHING ASTERS IN POTS.

VICK'S New Branching Asters have opened up a new field for both the professional florist and the amateur, the lovely plants being as fine for all decorative purposes as the chrysanthemums. As they were supposed to come into bloom later than the ordinary varieties, most of the people who raised them here had the plants transplanted into tubs and boxes. I think it is a mistaken idea to suppose that they begin to blossom late, though I am satisfied that they will continue in bloom longer than any variety I ever raised. My first sowing last spring was made in a box and placed in the hotbed early in April; they were transplanted to a larger box when they had four leaves, and when large enough were set out in the garden. About June 1st I made another planting. The first lot grew beautifully and the plants were in blossom before August 1st; have now been in bloom about two months, and to all appearances will not stop until frost comes, as there are lots of buds yet to be seen. The second lot came into bloom about September 1st.

The flowers are very large and full, double to the center, some having beautifully twisted and curled petals like a chrysanthemum. There are both narrow and broad petaled flowers, and the colors are the same as other asters. Among mine there are two varieties of white, several pink sorts ranging in color from flesh to a very

dark magenta, and purple of different shades, the darkest being a lovely royal purple. Some of the flowers are daintily striped with white. Their greatest beauty, however, is in the long stems which

tough and allow the flowers to sway in every passing breeze, but I have never known one to be broken by the wind, though mine are in a very exposed situation.



VICK'S NEW BRANCHING ASTERS.

do not look strong enough to hold up such large flowers; the stems are very

I keep the old blossoms cut off, not allowing any seed to form, so I expect a quantity of fine flowers before frost cuts them down.

I attended a County Fair recently, at which a large collection of Vick's Branching Asters was displayed in pots, being entered for a premium. Many of the people had never seen them before, even some of the florists who had seen the advertisement, but supposed them to be only a new strain of the common ones. It was a revelation to them, and I think many more of

these asters will be raised next year by people who saw the display at the Fair, than of all the other kinds put together.

When planting them in pots the soil cannot well be made too rich, as they are gross feeders,—and if the soil is not rich the growth will be weak and the flowers correspondingly small. It is a good plan to water them with manure water once a week, when blooming, to keep up their strength to the last. For decorations these potted plants are very fine and some of the florists rent them out for parties, with their palms and other decorative plants. Their season is so much longer than that of ordinary asters that it pays to take a little extra care of them, for they repay it a hundred fold.

Z.

THE BAPTISIAS.

ALTHOUGH the baptisias are native plants they are seldom met with, and to the majority of our cultivators comparatively unknown, although the genus is a valuable one for the decoration of the mixed flower border, as the plants are hardy perennials and thrive well in any soil and situation, requiring but little care and attention.

Although the baptisias will do well in

any soil and location, yet no plants will sooner repay a little care and attention to enable them to do their best; they should be given a well enriched soil, an open, sunny situation and sufficient space in which to properly develop themselves. They should also be given a good mulching of stable manure as soon as the ground becomes frozen in December, the coarser portion of which should be re-

moved early the ensuing spring. Good specimens can be obtained of most dealers in hardy perennial plants at a very moderate cost, and the supply can be readily increased, if necessary, by a careful division of the older plants, care being taken to perform the operation as early in the spring as possible or just before the plants start into growth.

Seed is also freely produced, and this

can be sown at any time during the early spring months or as soon as gathered, on a nicely prepared border in a partially shaded situation. Sow thinly, cover slightly, and as soon as the young plants are large enough to handle, they should be transplanted and placed in rows about six inches apart each way. During the summer season they should be kept clean and free from weeds, carefully watered whenever necessary, and as soon as the ground becomes frozen in December be well mulched with coarse stable manure. They should be carefully removed to their permanent position in the flower border early the ensuing spring. Of the several species the following are the most desirable and distinct:

BAPTISIA AUSTRALIS. This species is popularly known as the "Blue False Indigo," and grows wild from the Ohio River southward. In the flower border it attains a height of two or three feet. It has dark green, deeply cut foliage, and the large, showy, indigo blue flowers are produced in spikes and in great profusion from June to September. This is a very beautiful, hardy perennial when well grown and properly cared for.

B. ALBA is a very beautiful variety with pure white flowers which are borne in erect racemes. In the flower border the plant attains a height of two or three feet and blooms freely during the spring and early summer months. The leaves are deeply cut and of a dark green color.

B. LEUCOPHÆA. This species is a native of the Western and Southern States. In the flower border it grows from two to three feet in height and blooms from May to July. The flowers are very large, creamy white, and borne in racemes.

B. TINCTORIA. This is a native plant of great beauty, and in cultivation grows about two feet in height. It has shining sub-sessile leaves, and the yellow flowers are produced plentifully in short racemes from July to September.

B. LEUCANTHA is a native of the Western States, and in cultivation grows from two to three feet in height. It has petiole leaves, and the large white flowers are produced in elongate racemes from May to July.

B. LANCEOLATA is a native of the Southern States. It has sub-sessile leaves and large, dull yellow flowers. It blooms during the early summer months, and grows about two feet in height.

These plants, bearing their handsome, pea-shaped blossoms, and blooming during the spring and summer months, are well worthy of places in the border devoted to hardy perennials. The hardy plant feature is being given more and more attention every year in some of the best gardens, and it is destined to become very prominent, as no class of plants is more satisfactory, and their use adds a great variety of beautiful flowers unlike any otherwise attainable. As already noticed, all the species here described are natives of this country. There are more kinds of them which grow in more Southern latitudes, and on this account are not well adapted to general cultivation in northern regions. C. E. PARNELL.

SPRING AND SUMMER IN MY GARDEN.

JUNE 20th. The dawn of this lovely June morning shows the flowers of the wild or meadow lily, *L. canadense*, beginning to open, and few plants are more beautiful and interesting than this hardy native of our swamps and spring runs. Always growing in damp or wet ground naturally, it does perfectly well in ordinary garden soil,—in fact, it grows larger and bears more flowers when cultivated. I have grown it eight feet high and with forty-eight flowers, but it is commonly smaller; the best stalk this year is five feet, with fourteen flowers. It will grow right in the stiffest sod, doing all the better if the place is damp or wet, but it likes clean culture and old manure as well as any plant. Set under the drips of the eaves and mulch heavily with manure dirt if you want tall stems and broad racemes of flowers. The buds color long before opening; the flowers, spreading little more than to bring the tips of the petals to a horizontal position, look directly downward, so the crimson outside and the dark stamens are what you see. The inside, heavily spotted with squarish, brown markings, grows paler toward the throat, where it will pass for yellow. The smooth, dark leaves are in whorls round the stem,—six to twelve below, one to three near the flowers. A perfect plant, both in foliage and bloom, which should be in every garden.

Writing here in the shade of a spreading honey-locust, I see a great mass of the New England aster down yonder which partially hides an equally large clump of pure white bloom; this latter is the musk-mallow, *Malva moscheutos*. It comes from England and goes everywhere, its culture consisting in efforts more or less abortive to keep it within bounds. There is a pink sort identical with the white, except in the tint of its petals. It spreads along the roadside or anywhere else; a neighbor has a quarter acre beside the highway which just now looks from a distance as if piled with drifts of pink and other drifts of white snow. And yet the musk-mallow is a fine plant and its seed is sold by some very pretentious houses. It blooms the whole season; its fragrance is delightful (if you like musk). With a little more difficulty in growing, it would be a very popular flower. Its flowers are on the plan of the hollyhock, to whose family it belongs, and the staminal column is a beautiful object in a microscope of low power; the foliage is good, so varied in form that leaves from the same plant would be thought to belong to different species if judged by their outlines and the depth of their divisions.

The double-flowering yarrow, *Achillea ptarmica*, "The Pearl" of the catalogues, the "pearl everlasting" of the natives,

now just coming into bloom, is a good, hardy herbaceous perennial, flowering nearly the whole summer, the same flowers enduring for weeks or months. A dense mat of very dark, narrow, saw-edged leaves cover the earth; erect stems a foot or less high, branching at the summit, bear the pure white, very double, scentless flowers. It is very hardy and vigorous; it only asks to be kept clean from grass and weeds, and it will make a good fight if it is not.

It is curious that no more is said of the *Phlox suffruticosa*. Here is an old list of Ellwanger & Barry's giving twenty or more sorts, but all seem to have dropped out of the modern catalogue. I have but one, a deep rose-colored variety, whose only name is "Ladies' favorite," grown before I was born, perhaps, and still here. It is really a perennial phlox, though very different from the species (*decussata*) which is now commonly meant by that term. A host of slender, erect stems, two feet high, with sharp, narrow, thick, dark green, shining leaves arise from one root, the upper half covered with flowers without any mixture with foliage,—a solid mass of color. The long, slender tubed flowers are of the same tint inside and out, nearly,—somewhat paler outside; the scent is that of the common perennial phlox. Smaller and more slender in all its parts than the *decussata*, it lacks very much of the vigor and power of this species, but it is perfectly hardy. It has been in bloom some weeks already, and is about done before the *decussata* phlox begins,—thus greatly lengthening the phlox season. A late growth is often sent up and flowers produced late in the season. It is a plant of merit which should be grown everywhere. I should like to increase my number of varieties, could I do so.

The Success junberry is a pleasant little shrub now ripening its fruit. It is really a dwarf shad-flower, shad-blow, June plum, or any other name the *Ame-lanchier canadensis* may bear in different sections, and covers itself every spring with a white garment of shad-flower bloom; the leaf is also the shad-flower leaf. But the fruit is larger,—half an inch through sometimes, and dark purple when fully ripe, bright red for a while. It leaves a taste in your mouth as if you had been chewing apple-tree bark, but its pulp has a rich glutinous smoothness and it is pretty good after all. It grows three feet high and sends up many suckers, forming a thicket. It is good in the shrubbery, its white bloom, coming before the leaves, is very welcome, but as a fruit I am not so sure,—more interesting than profitable, I am afraid. Perfectly hardy, hardwooded and long lived; if once established it will remain a permanent fixture in your collection.

E. S. GILBERT.

Canaseraga, N. Y.



TULIPS.

OR out-of-door culture I know of no bulbs that give better satisfaction than tulips. I have had such excellent success with them that I should like to pass the good tidings along, and perhaps inspire someone else with a laudable desire for a bed of these brilliant flowers.

I began with a few of the choice named varieties, and these grew so well and blossomed so brilliantly that I determined to own a good bed of the gorgeous beauties. Accordingly I studied the floral catalogues and ordered some 700 bulbs from different well-known dealers. The bulbs arrived safely and were simply immense in size, and, in fact, they seemed to me and some others to be the finest tulip bulbs we had ever seen.

A bed was made in a locality not too high nor too low, but situated to my notion "about right." The bulbs were placed in this and were covered well with soil and then a top dressing or mulch was put on for winter protection. This might not be necessary in some places, but in South Dakota, where the winds sweep the prairies and there is little snow to be used as a blanket, the winter cover seems best.

The rest of the story is a pleasant one and almost as brilliant in coloring as some of the fabulous tales of the Arabian Nights. The bulbs began coming up in the spring almost as soon as the south wind had whispered of warmer days to come. The Duc von Thols were the first to put in an appearance and their silvery-green leaves were welcomed with jubilation by the flower lovers of the family. The tulip buds are formed as soon almost as the leaves. In fact, the bud begins to form right after the blossom dies down in the spring and here in the heart of bulb the bud is nourished for a twelvemonth before it springs into the light of day.

While the Duc von Thols were flaunting their rich banners to the breeze the other tulips came up,—the double and single varieties, the Bizarres and Bybloems, and, last of all, the quaintly curious Parrot tulips lifted their spiky leaves to the kiss of sun and caress of breeze.

What a blaze of beauty! What a gorgeous array of colors! Well might it be

said that "Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." The silken texture of the flower petals, the brilliant dies, the wonderful spottings, flamings, stripings, frecklings and mottlings that bed of tulips displayed was a study for an artist who loves bright tints well-blended.

I feel free to say to anyone, if you want a bed of bulbs that cannot fail to give satisfaction try a bed of tulips. Not necessarily so many as I did, for they will make a rapid increase, and a few bulbs at first will, in time, produce wonderful results, and the best of it all is that they do increase from year to year. A well established bed is a thing of beauty and

the earlier we can have the blossoms the more they will be appreciated. The Duc von Thol tulips will come into bloom nearly two weeks before any of the other varieties. The flowers are smaller than some of the others, but they are particularly pure and brilliant in their colorings, and are seen not only in solid colors, but in stripes and markings, both single and double flowers. There is also a variegated foliage kind which is charming even without its brilliant blossoms. The leaves are of a silvery-green color and are bordered with a golden yellow; the flowers are of the most brilliant scarlet, banded with yellow, the combination being extremely rich and striking.

Bizarre and Bybloem tulips are especially attractive, having no solid colors, but show almost all colors and shades of hues known to the tulip family. The Bizarre tulips have a groundwork of yellow and are spotted and flamed with maroon, black, scarlet, bronze and brown. The Bybloem varieties have white, light or violet groundwork, and are spotted and blazed with rose, pink, scarlet, lilac, purple, black, etc. These are among the most brilliant of all tulips.

The Picotee tulips may seem to the novice to be a good deal like the Bybloems, but they are a distinct variety after all, and show white grounds, feathered and spotted with rose, pink, scarlet, and crimson; the combination of colors is simply exquisite. These are a little later to bloom than the single tulips.

The variegated-foliage tulips are a special kind and are very attractive indeed; the foliage is bordered with white or creamy yellow,—in my experience the leaves are bordered with yellow, which as time advances turns to white or creamy white. The flowers are large and brilliant and



PARROT TULIPS.

can be enjoyed for a very long time.

Now, for the benefit of a few who don't "know it all," not by any means assuming that I do, but that I am willing to tell what I do know, I will say this: Unless you care particularly for special kinds, colors, etc., it will be much cheaper to buy the mixed varieties of tulip bulbs. The first bed I set was of choice named varieties; they were lovely, but really gave me no more pleasure than the mixed kinds,—and maybe not so much, considering the difference in price paid. The Duc von Thol varieties are the earliest of all tulips to blossom and are therefore much to be desired, for at tulip blooming-time there are so few other flowers that

show both double and single forms.

The Parrot tulips are among the quaintest of flowers, indeed anything more grotesque and bizarre is seldom seen. In my bed these bloomed the latest of all,—about the middle or latter part of May. When they begun to open they showed such curiously twisted, incurved leaves that I thought they were imperfect flowers, but as the days advanced and the petals took on more colors, I learned that these fantastic flowers were really quite perfect and very handsome. Some of them measured eight inches across, and some less; the petals are deeply fimbriated, toothed, twisted and waved, incurved closely sometimes, and sometimes

opening out flat as a star. They show the brilliant hues of the parrot, yellow, green, crimson, scarlet. The combination of green, gold and scarlet is very brilliant and beautiful. They grow nearly a foot in height.

Some of the common single tulips show cups as large as teacups, but none of them can compare in size with the Gesneriana tulip. The flowers are as large as teacups and are always scarlet, with black, white or dark blue centers. They are very striking, and are fine planted among evergreens and shrubbery; the blossoms last a long time.

Darwin tulips are shown only in pure, solid colors, but these are varied; the flowers are large, like the Gesneriana. There is a black kind, a blue, rose, crimson, and violet-purple. These are novelties, and yet the price is not high.

Here are two choice named tulips that are very fine:

"Greigi" has variegated leaves, but the variegation is quite distinct from that shown in any other class of tulips. The large green leaves are variegated with black, and the flower is of the most intense scarlet. "Golden Crown" has enormous flowers of rich golden yellow, bordered with crimson.

Tulips range in price (except special named varieties,) from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per hundred, and at less rates per thousand. They were never so cheap before and one may make a good start this fall and soon grow into a mass of the lovely flowers, if one will.

CULTIVATION.

This is simple, and can be successfully carried out by a novice. The main point in my mind is to have the bed where no water can stand upon it, or settle to the bulbs and rot them. The soil should be good, rich, and light, and the bulbs be set about four inches below the surface and about six or eight inches apart. This is an ideal way for setting bulbs,—with the earth just moist enough to be mealy and not wet enough to clod up when drying. I have set tulip bulbs on just such a bed, and I have set them under quite different conditions. I will mention a few adverse conditions under which I have successfully grown tulips—for it may be an encouragement to someone else stranded in like circumstances: The last setting of tulips I made was after the ground had frozen; it was too late, and almost no hope in my mind of the bulbs rooting and making growth. A wide row was made and the bulbs crowded in haphazard-like, with four or five to the row in width; the frozen earth was put over them and they were left, with little hopes of their ever

hearing the resurrection voice of Spring. But why die? Why they couldn't die with such a strong principle of life within, but grew and bloomed as though they loved to do it and had been cherished most tenderly.

If one must re-set tulips it is better to do it directly after they are done blooming, as the bud begins to form then and may be injured if removed later. The commercial bulbs bloom beautifully and I suppose these must be taken up after blooming time.

If you can't afford more than a dozen, then get a dozen and make a start. For farmer's wives and daughters or for busy women anywhere who want a good show of flowers with the least possible expenditure of time and strength, I recommend in all heartiness the tulip in any of its many forms. It is brilliant, it is beauti-



DUC VON THOL TULIPS.

ful, it will grow with almost no care, and it flaunts its brilliant colors when there are very few other flowers to be had. It isn't a rose, it isn't a violet or a lily, but it stands out in its own gorgeous beauty a tulip,—and we love it, we love it!

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

MUSHROOM GROWING IN A COLD CELLAR.

Raising mushrooms in cellars without fire heat is the subject of an article in *Gardening*, by David Fraser. He gives the following account and directions:

There is nothing to hinder the amateur who has a cellar under his barn or out-house to grow a few mushrooms in it for his family, providing the cellar is dry and that the temperature does not fall below 24°. I grew a fine crop of mushrooms in such a cellar last winter. Out of a bed twenty-three feet long by four feet wide I picked between ninety and one hundred pounds of the finest mushrooms, weighing them after the stems were cut off. The bed was made up on the 27th of No-

vember and spawned eight days later, and the first mushrooms were cut on the 11th of February, and at that time the temperature of the house was 28°, and it went often down as low as 22°, but by a little extra covering a good crop was raised. To the amateur who would like to try and grow a few mushrooms I will tell him how I made up the bed and took care of it:

I went to the manure pile and got a lot of long strawy manure which was quite wet and threw it all together into a pile in much the same way as one would get a lot of hotbed manure together; after I had enough I turned it over every other day till the rank heat had left it,—then it was ready for the bed. Also in the morning I went into the horse stable and got a lot of pure horse manure, shaking out most of the long straw. This I gathered until I had enough to put a layer four inches deep over the strawy manure. In this clean horse manure I put one load of soil to three of manure, and, like the strawy manure, kept it turned over often to keep it from burning and drying out. I made a sort of box bed in the floor, of hemlock boards, making the bed twenty inches high. The strawy manure was then put in the bottom and tramped well down, nine inches of it, then four inches of the clean manure mixed with soil on the top. This was left for a few days till the temperature of the bed had declined to 95°. The bed was then spawned, putting the pieces of spawn about nine inches apart. A good size to make the spawn is to cut a cake into about fifteen pieces. I put the spawn about an inch and a half deep into the manure bed. After the bed was spawned I went over it again and firmed it well with the

back of a spade. The bed was then allowed to stand in this way for eight days, when I put on a layer of soil an inch deep all over it and firmed it down with a spade; that finished the work. I then got some straw and filled in the rest of the bed. The bed being twenty inches deep that left an empty space of about six inches over the straw. I put some boards over it and left it in that way for six weeks; the straw was then cleaned off and lath strips nailed across the bed to let the boards rest upon. The boards were then put over the bed as close as they could be placed, and some old bags put over the boards so that the frost could not get near the bed. After the first crop was taken a layer of soil mixed with old cow manure from an old pasture and put through a half-inch sieve was put on, just enough to cover the bed. Mushrooms seem to like cow manure for a top dressing, as I tried part of the bed with soil alone and the other part mixed with cow manure, and by far the best crop was taken off where the cow manure was. I tried this in different

ways and found that the crop did best where the soil and cow manure was used for a top dressing. Off this bed there were seven spurts or crops cut.

The house was kept very dry,—that is to say, no water was allowed to spill on the floor while we were watering the bed. Beds in a cellar do not need a great deal of water. I only watered mine after each top dressing, but when I did water it I gave it a good one, using a fine spray for the purpose. If your cellar is large, a good way is to put a load of hot manure on the floor,—this raises a nice moist heat. Next winter I mean to keep a load of it on the floor of my cellar all the time, renewing it as the heat declines. In cold cellars very little air is needed before the warm days of spring come, then I give plenty of it. If your manure gets too dry before you make your beds don't be afraid to put the hose on it, as dry manure is not nearly so good as moist manure. I always give each barrowful of manure a pail of water as I bring it out of the stable, and this seems to make it right. Be sure when you pick a crop that you pick it

little double daisy. Rare indeed is the home where there are no daisies. "Yes, I know they are common, but they are so pretty," apologizes one with a pocket-book suiting the "rare and far fetched," so they are scattered about among the grass of the banker's lawn on "Codfish Hill," where they bloom no more gaily than in the beds and borders about the humblest cabin in the forest. They bloom with the pansies and receive the same care. Division of the root is the only method of propagation in use. Not one person in fifty, except those well versed in catalogue lore, knows that they are ever grown from seed. They increase very fast,—a single tiny plant of this year's setting will count its offspring by the half-dozen next season, and its grandchildren by the score the year after. By the third year your line of border will have become a matted row, a foot or more in width, threatening to overwhelm all within reach. They are pre-eminently the children's flowers; whatever

"stub," thirty or forty feet high, becomes respectable, even aristocratic, draped full length in the evergreen ivy. A stump, five or six feet in diameter, in a corner somewhere, has a fashion of hiding its primitive complexion behind the glossy covering. Once in my life I possessed an English ivy. It grew in a pot in the house and was the pride of my heart. Since taking up my abode on the shores of Puget Sound I am tempted to say I have been possessed by one. It hung about the pillars of my front veranda in a mass three feet thick, with a trunk as large as a man's wrist; thrust itself under shingles, between clapboards, and bulged the veranda floor up into swells and rolls like a wooden sea. There seems to be two species here,—one with coarser, rounder leaves than the ordinary kind, and not so pretty. It has clusters of blossoms, a dirty pink in color, very much like those of the old-fashioned Live-for-ever, followed by black berries.

With mild winters and the moist atmosphere of England, why not English flowers? Let the eastern floral scribe come and be introduced.

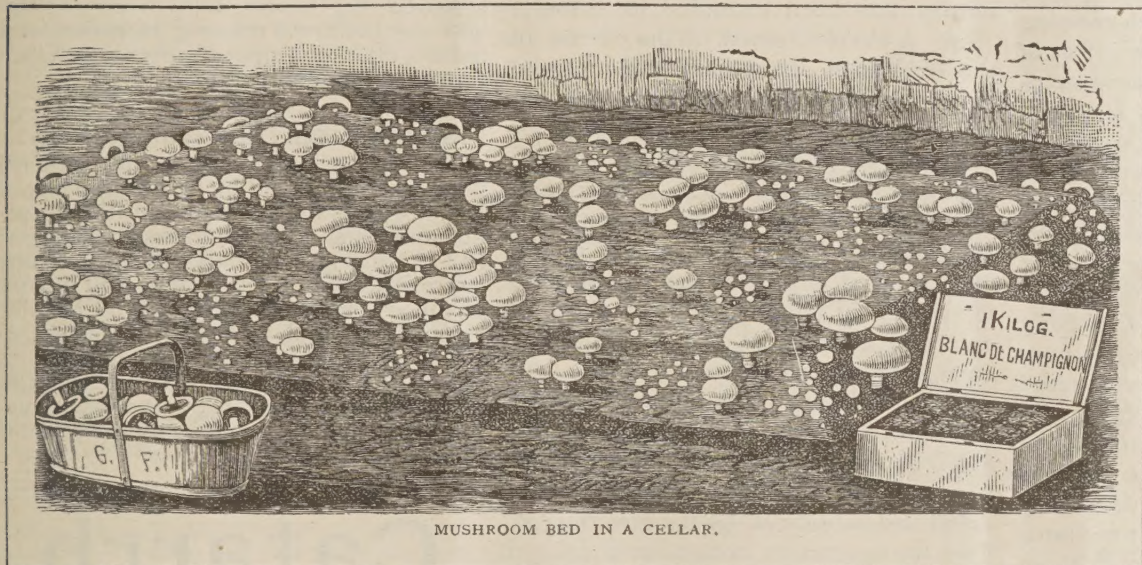
LILLIE SHELTON.

KITCHEN HERBS AND PLANTS.

Sweet Basil is good for flavoring meats or soups; also in sausage, the dry herb rubbed fine and mixed with the chopped meat, as we do sage or savory.

Thyme, sweet majoram, parsley, sage, savory, garlic, chives and leek are useful in preparing meats and soups,—hence all deserve a place in the kitchen garden.

Start lavender in boxes in the window if you have not hotbed room, giving plenty of air to prevent spindling growth and damping off. It is quite essential to get early bloom for market, before the moths get possession of closets and chests. Tansy, too, is good to drive the pests away; just a few of the leaves laid among the clothing. The old-fashioned chamomile bed deserves a place.



MUSHROOM BED IN A CELLAR.

clean; if there are any dead mushrooms pick them out by the roots, then top-dress the bed. Now is the time to get your manure together before cold weather comes,—it will help you out greatly. I made up my first bed the 25th of August; I expect to be able to pick mushrooms by the end of October.

SOME ENGLISH FLOWERS IN THE FAR NORTH-WEST.

THE eastern writers of floral catalogues seem to have blotted western Washington entirely off the map of Uncle Sam's domain. We read of certain flowers recommended under some special treatment "for this country, but in England," etc. By "this country" our section cannot be meant, for those same flowers flourish like grass here, and as we are not "in England" we fain would rise to enquire, like the perplexed congressman, "where we are at."

If asked to give the most popular flower in cultivation in this far-off corner I should unhesitatingly pronounce it the

else is forbidden the freedom of the daisies is always allowed, and they seem to increase their bloom the faster for frequent despoiling. "They are so pretty, I like to pick them," is the plea, known aforesaid in one household at least, for abandoned handfuls scattered promiscuously about the house.

Wallflowers! And again is a popular beauty, in most gorgeous shades of yellow, red, and red-brown, in whose behalf no one takes thought of the morrow, given a "special" prescription with a "but in England" attachment.

Cowslips, yellow and red, that have almost forgotten the adjective relating to their nativity, flourish right along as though it were not contrary to what is expected of them in "this country."

By no means least among our English importations is the fine old ivy; not, to be sure, clambering over ancient ruins of historic castles and cathedrals, but hiding the ignominious remains of a denizen of the forest, centuries old. A fir

HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian HAIR RENEWER

Will restore gray hair to its youthful color and beauty—will thicken the growth of the hair—will prevent baldness, cure dandruff, and all scalp diseases. A fine dressing. The best hair restorer made.

R. P. Hall & Co., Props., Nashua, N. H.
Sold by all Druggists.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1896.

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A Club of five or more copies, sent at one time, at Forty Cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

Free Copies. One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to VICK PUBLISHING CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Much Fruit and Low Prices.

The great crops of apples and grapes this season have had a most depressing effect on the markets. The low prices of these fruits this season will almost compare with the price of potatoes last year. It is very evident that in these articles of the farm, as well as others, there may be over-production. One of the bad effects of these large crops, besides the discouragement they cause, is that the growers are made careless. As they cannot afford to spend the time to select and properly pack the fruit, it goes to market in a poor way, thus driving prices still lower. And bad habits learned one season are apt to continue afterwards, and demoralize a business which under normal conditions would be properly conducted. Many will, also, probably neglect their orchards and vineyards next season, and those that do so will find that "the moth and the rust will corrupt" their crops.

There are many owners of orchards and vineyards who are unfitted to care for them and never will conduct them properly. It would be far better that these persons should grub out their trees and vines and devote the land to other purposes, and it might be better for those who are really adapted for the work.

The good fruit cultivator need not be advised to take good care of his orchard or his vineyard, notwithstanding the discouragements of the present season, and the poor one would not take such advice if given.

* *

The Rathbun and the Snyder Blackberries.

The notice in this department last month in relation to the Rathbun blackberry contained an error which it is desired now to correct. Instead of comparing the Rathbun with the Erie it should have been the Snyder. The Erie is a larger berry than the Snyder, with the last of which the Rathbun was, in fact,

compared. But it is remarkable that two quart strawberry baskets should show so great a difference,—45 berries of the Rathbun in the heaped measure, and 164 of the Snyder. To the grower there is an advantage in favor of the Rathbun in two ways: Less labor in picking, and fine appearance, and, consequently, quicker sales at a greater price. As already noticed, it is a great point with the Rathbun that it holds out in size to the last pickings, instead of running small at the close of the season, as is the case with other varieties.

* *

Horticultural Show in 1897.

An international horticultural exhibition is to be held next year at Hamburg, Germany. The authorities connected with it inform us that great interest is being manifested in it, and so much so that the scale on which it was planned has had to be rearranged and the space provided greatly enlarged. On account of the growing interest the time for making entries has been extended to January, 1897. A circular issued by the officers of the exhibition states that some of the most prominent plant growers have already entered their best specialties for competition, and others are in correspondence on the subject. The canned and dried fruits and fresh fruits of this country will form a principal feature of the show, and it is desired that all who are interested in these articles or those of any other department of horticulture will engage in the exhibition.

The Hamburg Exhibition is under the control of some of the ablest citizens, aided by the best practical, scientific and financial talent of the country, and is aided and subsidized by the government. Free transportation both ways is offered from and to all seaports of the world and Hamburg. It is probable that this exhibition will be a noted one for many years to come.

* *

Horticultural Transactions.

We have lately received Part I, of the "Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the Year 1896." We suppose it would be superfluous to remind our readers that the brochure of 190 pages is full of valuable matter, but we wish to note several articles or papers which are peculiarly good and of a character not to be found elsewhere. These are: "Hardy Garden Plants," by E. O. Orpet; "Ornamental Planting for Parks and Public Grounds," by Wm. S. Egerton, superintendent of Public Parks, Albany, N. Y.; "Manuring Orchards," by Prof. Edward B. Voorhees, director of the N. J. State Agricultural Experiment Station. It is no disparagement to the other portions of the Transactions that the above named articles should be thus particularly mentioned, for the reason that they are the records of original observation and

experiment, conveying very important information. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the oldest association of the kind in this country, is doing most valuable service, not only for the citizens of Massachusetts, but for those of the whole country.

* *

Spring and Summer.

The series of papers from the pen of Mr. E. S. Gilbert in relation to hardy garden plants, under the title of "Spring and Summer in my Garden," is a recital of experience and observation by a country resident, and shows what has been done, and of course what may be done easily, in the farmer's garden. With hardy trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants the country dweller may beautify his grounds and gather about him a rich store of earth's arboreal and floral gems which any botanic garden or city park would exhibit with commendable pride. Farmers and farmers' families should give much more attention than they usually do to ornamental gardening. It is not only a source of pleasure, but, in connection with the literature relating to plants and nature, offers the opportunity for self-culture to an indefinite extent.

* *

Reading's Chrysanthemum Show.

A chrysanthemum show and general floral exhibition will be held in the city of Reading, Pa., for the benefit of the hospitals and other local charities, on November 18, 19, 20 and 21, 1896. The premiums aggregate \$600. A committee is in charge of the arrangements with John D. Mishler as president and Cyrus T. Fox as secretary. M. H. Schrader, a public-spirited citizen, has granted the free use of The Auditorium, a fine, new, four-story structure, with hall, 60x200 feet, on the ground floor.

Catarrh

Is just as surely a disease of the blood as is scrofula. How foolish it is, then, to expect a cure from snuffs, inhalants, etc. The sensible course is to purify your blood by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. This medicine has permanently cured Catarrh in a multitude of cases. It goes to the root of the trouble, which is

Impure Blood.

"I have been afflicted with nasal catarrh which caused me severe headaches nearly every day. I decided to try Hood's Sarsaparilla. When I had taken three or four bottles I was completely cured of the catarrh and headaches." N. G. EGGLESTON, Rapid City, S. Dak.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

Dahlias in Missouri.

In southwest Missouri the dahlia is an all-season bloomer. On May 15th my Ethel Vick was in bloom and on Decoration Day I had several others out, including the Lady Blanche, which I purchased of you in March. No trouble for me to have dahlias in bloom five months in the year in the open air; of course I water them every day in the dry season.

Foster, Mo.

HORACE P. PORTER.

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Branching Asters and Sweet Peas.

The Branching Asters, the seed of which I got of you, have so far exceeded my expectations that I write to tell you. The sweet peas are also fine.

Pawtucket, R. I.

E. W. S.

Your Branching Asters are all that could be desired. The flower stems on mine are two feet long, and the blooms are abundant and large. The same can be said of the sweet peas.

Mrs. G. W. C.

Wilkes Barre, Pa.

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Pink Branching Aster.

When the first pink aster opened from seed I obtained from you, I was disappointed, and sent the flower to you. Later on, as you said they would, they became very beautiful and delicate in color, exciting admiration from everyone. The soil is rich and from three papers of seed the plants have produced an almost inexhaustible supply of asters. I have cut hundreds and I can hardly count the many which fill the beds now. I am more than pleased with them.

Mrs. D. W. B.

Auburn, N. Y.

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Branching Asters.—Aster Insects.

I purchased a packet of your white Branching Aster seed last spring, and want to tell you of my success. I have a bed of them that commenced blooming the first of September, and are still in blossom. The first that opened measured four inches in diameter. I took some to our county fair and won first premium. Many persons thought them chrysanthemums. To the inquiry in the Magazine about insects on asters, I will reply that kerosene emulsion will exterminate them.

L. T.

Parkers Landing, Pa.

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Feathered Celosia in Pots.

Some years ago I called the attention of a florist to the Feathered Celosia, *Superba plumosa*, as a companion, or rival even, of the chrysanthemum. If the dwarfed and inferior plants are taken up at this time of the year (September) and cut back severely, and then forced, they will throw out new flowers and branch very freely. I have had a potful of them blooming in the house until after the first of January, a blaze of color. This year, unfortunately, all but a very few of my plants have the dense "club" heads, in which I take but little interest.

S. M. T.

Providence, R. I.

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Trimming an Oleander.

Please tell me through the columns of your valuable Magazine when is the best time to trim an oleander. My oleander is over seven feet high,—too high to handle well. Would you advise fall or spring trimming?

Mrs. A. P.

Worthington, Ind.

It is too late to prune an oleander this fall. It should be deferred until spring and then the plant be given a place in a good light, with considerable heat until the new growth has started well, when it can have more air.

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Flowers in Oregon.

Deeming an exchange of notes on floral matters of interest, I hereby make mention of two items somewhat remarkable, I think, even for Oregon. I measured on the 22d of June a garden heliotrope on my lawn that stood five feet six inches tall, and it was vigorously growing. A year or more ago I read an item in the Magazine from a correspondent, citing a specimen of digitalis (foxglove) in his garden as re-

markable, because it had ten or fifteen blossoms thereon. I will state that this flower grows in great profusion wild on the foothills west of the Coast Range in Oregon, and I have frequently counted from thirty to forty blossoms on a single spike, and others still developing at the top. I have no doubt but specimens bearing as many as fifty buds and blooms might easily be found on some of the foothills of Lincoln County during the months of June, July and August,—many of the hills being purple and white with them year by year, much of the time during those months.

Yaquina, Ore.

F. D. C.

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Treatment of Cactus.

Will you, in the next number of the Magazine, give a few points on cactus, as to soil required for them, size of pots, watering, manuring, whether they keep best in a moist greenhouse atmosphere or dry room, and treatment generally. Several of mine, small plants, rotted after potting.

B. B.

As a rule, cactus plants do not require large pots, very rich soil, or much water. Excessive moisture is especially harmful in the dull season when they are dormant and are satisfied if only the soil is not allowed to become dust dry. A soil of fibrous loam and sand in equal parts, will suit them. Most kinds can be kept in a somewhat low temperature, 50° to 60°, during winter. In March give them a warmer place, syringe them once a day, and when growth starts give water once a day, but still sparingly. The full sunshine suits them.

++

What was it on the Sweet Peas.

Last summer my sweet peas were doing finely, I thought, and triumphantly gathered my daily bouquets, when suddenly I became aware that a portion of the vines were not thriving, but looked as though scorched with the hot sun. On closer examination they proved to be covered with what looked like the red spider, and were covered with webs. A cold rain set in just then and thinking that would "settle their hash," I paid no more attention to them until the rain, ceased, when, to my surprise, I found that the rain had not seemed to disconcert them in the least, but they had rapidly increased till the whole row was destroyed; also the balloon vine that grew next to the peas was entirely killed. I thought a week's drenching in cold water would kill the common red spider. Was this something different?

E. W. P.

When the red spider becomes firmly entrenched it is hard to dislodge. A rain storm would probably leave many of the leaves unwet on the under side. Gardeners think they can drive off red spider only by the frequent application of cold water by means of a hand syringe, which enables one to throw the water with great force against the plants and thus reaching the under as well as upper side of the leaves. The force of the water is important in its application, for thus the water becomes the means of tearing away the webs and knocking off the insects.

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Insects in Rose Buds.

I have a fine yard of roses and the plants flourish finely, but the buds are all blasted as they open from the effects of lice, which eat the bud and cause the rose to open,—very much blasted and only half size. The bug is a small, very small, swift insect, black in color, and the rose generally full of them between the leaves. What is a good way of ridding the plants of them? I got several bushes from your house a couple of years ago; they grew nicely and bloomed profusely, but the insects kill the buds. A remedy will be very much appreciated.

H. C. M.

Mountain Home, Idaho.

It is a difficult matter to prevent the work of the rose bud insect. The best course to pursue is to kill all the insects that form a web and draw together the

rose leaf. If it is this insect that infests the buds the surest way of destroying them is to pinch together the leaf where they are nested. It will be necessary to examine the plants about the time the buds are forming and during the blooming stage. The best implement to help in all insect destruction on roses is a good garden syringe. If this is used once a day, even if nothing but clear water is employed, it will wash off most of the insects and prevent their ravages. Syringing with a solution of whale-oil soap, or any soap, occasionally will produce excellent results.

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Pleasure and Profit in the Garden.

I am much pleased with the Magazine; I find a great amount of useful information in it. My sweet peas have given a great amount of pleasure, and all my kitchen garden has been most satisfactory. My Crimson Rambler has done more than I expected,—the longest shoot being now (September 22d) about two and a half feet long. My balsams are the envy of all the people in this neighborhood. I was also very successful with my *Dianthus Chinensis*. But my anemones do not grow at all; and, worse still, I lament my asters, for I had about 200 of the finest plants you ever saw. They made a vigorous growth, some of them over three feet high and I counted more than forty shoots on many; but just as they were about to bloom, all the best plants died. I have tried to find the cause, but there is such a diversity of opinion among our local gardeners that it is hard to know which is right; some assert that it is dryness of the roots, but I am confident it is not so,—if they had said that the plants had too much water I could have thought they were right. Others ascribe it to insects, but I used the kerosene emulsion as given in the May number of the Magazine. I am going to grow asters again next year, and if you know of any thing that will save them I should be very grateful to know it.

J. H.

Cote St. Paul, P. Q.

There is a disease affecting asters which is not yet well understood. It may or may not appear the second year in the same place, but as a safeguard we would make a bed for asters with some new soil, brought in from an old pasture. Such a bed would be free from any fungus pests that may have been in the garden the preceding year.

++

Sweet Peas and Other Plants.

H. W. W., of Ohio, writes in the Letter Box of the September number of a cure for blight on sweet peas. But what is one to do who lives where there are no woods? My peas were very fine until a short time ago; then the blight struck them and they were nearly ruined. Our soil is a strong adobe, impregnated with alkali, and we depend entirely on sub-irrigation, and some plants will not thrive. I am puzzled to know what to do with pot plants that are "particular" as to their treatment. I have an Otaheite orange over three years old, and it is no larger than when I got it, and has not matured but one orange. The leaves turn brown at the edge and at last nearly the whole leaf is dead. I repotted with mountain soil, but it shows no improvement. What can I do?

Is there any sweet-scented violet that will bloom for an amateur? I tried Swanley White, but it did not bloom,—tried it as a pot plant, then in the open ground.

V. C. W.

Grand Junction, Colo.

For one thing, when one is not able to improve soil by addition of earth from the woods or leaf mold, we suggest a change from one piece of ground to another, and not raising the same crop continuously on the same land, and also a manuring with cow manure that has been laid in a pile for several months. In the same way, we advise that by the addition of this material that the soil for potting be improved, and in this way help the Otaheite orange, if its injury or enfeeblement is not already too great.

Try the New Russian violet.

ORNAMENTAL TREES.

MORE judgment is required to make a proper selection of ornamental trees than to choose flowering plants. If the latter prove inferior or out of place they can be quietly dug up and their places filled with something else. Undesirable trees, however, are harder to get down, and their successors slow to grow. More than that, their large size and bold outline make them at once the most conspicuous objects in the home landscape, and every fault is brought out in glaring light, where every passerby may run, yet read.

A fine tree unites size with symmetry, grace with strength, beauty with ruggedness. A poor tree is an annoyance and an eyesore. Yet it is a curious fact that many who pride themselves on their fine grounds, and will not allow an inferior flower yard-room, will chose for shade trees the poorest and faultiest of sorts.

There was once a professional man whose home grounds were his pride. A wide, grassy lawn sloped down to a rippling brook, and shaded by half a dozen glossy-leaved pin oaks of nature's planting. There were walks, and drives, rustic arbors, beds of flowers, and belts of shrubbery. A little more shade was needed, and what did this man do but set out a row of silver poplars, from sprouts that a neighbor had dug up and was about to throw away! During the good doctor's lifetime it was not so bad, but in time he and his wife were gathered to their fathers, and their old home passed into the hands of strangers. Soon the place seemed more like a wilderness than the spacious grounds of a country residence. The wistaria still twined over the veranda, the honeysuckle wreathed the arbor with its fragrant blossoms, and the stately peonies and lilies still raised their heads above the surrounding weeds; but the house was hidden and the lawn overgrown by a forest of young poplars that had sprang up by the hundreds. The owner at last awoke to the necessity of doing something. He commenced by cutting down the oaks, the only trees of merit on the premises, and finished by attacking the jungle of poplar sprouts. As he left all the old silver poplars, and many of the younger ones are coming on, in a short time his grounds will be in worse shape than ever. It is always distressing to see a place neglected that has once known good care, but the moral of this incident is that such a complete change for the worse could not have been possible had the good doctor chosen his trees as carefully as he did his flowers.

An ornamental tree should combine as many good qualities, and be as free from faults as possible. It should be a healthy, thrifty grower, of good habit and outline, and should have an abundance of beautiful foliage. These ought to be considered indispensable qualities in a lawn tree. It

ought not to be short-lived, of scrubby habit, or one that continually litters the ground by a constant dropping of leaves, or that sprouts or suckers badly from the roots.

Fortunately, our tree nurseries and forests are full of ornamental trees that come fully up to the standard we have designated, so that there is no need of accepting inferior sorts. Of all these no



SUGAR MAPLE.—ACER SACCHARINUM.

better one can be found than some of our native American trees. Our great elms, oaks and beeches, and our fine foliated maples and birches, to say nothing of rarer but not less beautiful denizens of the forest, are unsurpassed by any Old World trees, although some of the latter are very fine. Why, then, are the wretched locusts, silver poplars, and box elders so much more commonly planted,—trees



AMERICAN ELM.—ULMUS AMERICANA.

that litter, sprout, and are dull of foliage?

We hear again and again the plea made that the best forest trees are so slow in growth that the planter never lives to see them good sized trees. This is largely a mistake. If small or medium sized young trees are chosen, carefully dug up so as to get good roots, and as carefully set out in good soil, far enough away from other trees to allow access to the sunshine, and

room for for the expansion of their branches, most of our indigenous trees will grow up rapidly. Even the oak, the slowest growing of all, makes a good specimen on the lawn in half the time it does in the crowded, shaded forest. In laying out our own grounds, eleven years ago, a small oak stood exactly where we planned to have a shade tree. My "other half" thought it too small to waste time with, and was about to have it cut down, when I interceded for it and saved it. Every year since then it has grown two or three feet in height and spread laterally in proportion, and is now a fine, symmetrical specimen of our best American oak, *Quercus palustris*, and with its shining, deep green foliage and pyramidal growth is very attractive.

Most trees grow faster than this, maples particularly so. The handsomest tree in this village is a superb specimen of sugar maple, *Acer saccharinum*, standing near the public square. Soon after the war a young lady found it growing wild, took it up and planted it where it now stands. It was so small that she used a case-knife to dig the hole for its roots. As she was planting it, a young lawyer came along and poked unlimited fun at her "shade tree planted with a case-knife," and wanted to know how old she expected to be before she could sit beneath its shadow. The lawyer is still in the prime of life, and the lady but a middle-aged woman, but for nearly a score of years that tree has been the pride of the town, so dense is its shade and so perfect its development.

While we should be quick to seize upon all desirable ornamental planting, whatever its origin, we ought to give our preference to equally good native sorts, above those of foreign introduction. A commendable pride and love for one's country demands that we show the same regard for our native trees that the Englishman does for his oaks, or the Hindoo for his bo-tree. LORA S. LAMANCE.

* *

ARTIFICIAL COFFEE BEANS.

In regard to this product for adulteration of coffee in its whole state, or before grinding, the *Gardeners' Chronicle* makes the following note:

Artificial whole coffee has long been known as a commercial commodity, but we were scarcely prepared for the statement recently made by the *West Indian and Commercial Advertiser*, that it is now manufactured to an alarming extent, consisting of the roasted meal of different cereals worked up with dextrin. Two different factories, it is stated, have been established at Cologne, which undertake to furnish the requisite machinery and plant, with directions for making the false coffee beans. The apparatus supplied by these wholesale swindlers is capable of turning out more than half a ton daily, at a cost of about £1 (\$4.44) per cwt., good coffee having nearly five times this value in the market. The fictitious coffee is difficult of detection by ordinary examination, especially when a proportion of genuine coffee is mixed with it.

MYSTERIES AND MISTAKES.



HAVE been re-potting plants today. Fuchsias in four-inch pots root-bound; three hydrangeas sticking their toes out for more room, and many other plants have outgrown their winter quarters. According to the law, not of the Medes and Persians, but the hosts of floral writers, "Plants must be shifted into pots a size larger, when the ball of earth is filled with roots." I've been shifting, and wondering at the same time, how these same hydrangeas grew and thrived in two-inch pots in the greenhouse.* They were so large when I bought them that they were top-heavy.

Late last summer I ordered, by express, one dozen choice chrysanthemums of one of the most prominent florists in New Jersey. I had already purchased twenty of another firm and had them growing finely in six-inch pots. In "reading up" on the culture of chrysanthemums I learned that one of the most important things in regard to the successful growing of this plant was plenty of room for the development of roots. One of the best writers on floriculture says "It is impossible to have fine specimens after they have once become pot-bound, for that gives them such a check that no amount of after-care will make up for the neglect." Judge of my surprise when I received the new lot and found they had been taken from two-inch pots, but were larger plants than mine. Of course, there must have been a "check," but I re-potted them right away, and they grew,—some of them finely; others never recovered. Now, if,—but there's no *if* about it,—florists understand what these plants need, why do they keep them in such small pots or send them out as first-class, at high prices?†

I'm only an amateur flower grower, but during my short apprenticeship under that excellent instructor, Prof. X. Perience, I have learned many valuable lessons and made some sad mistakes. Here are a few:

Last spring I purchased a fine collection of Rex begonias. They were beauties, and I hoped to have some handsome specimens by fall. I arranged a place for them on the veranda in the shade, but somehow they didn't do as well as I expected, and I was nearly all summer trying to solve this mystery. Finally I came to the conclusion that they were as averse to wind as to the sun. One specimen that occupied a very quiet, shady

corner, grew wonderfully, and was the admiration of all who saw it.

I had a handsome Kentia Belmoreana, and was told by a florist that it could be put out of doors in summer, with advantage to the plant. Accordingly I made it the central figure in a large rustic vase, and expected it to add much to its beauty by fall, but my learned Professor showed me my mistake when I found the wind was making the leaves brown and unsightly. It has been a great eyesore to me, but as there is no remedy for this, I must wait until new leaves grow. You who have palms can understand, perhaps, what that means.

Still another mystery and mistake: My *Cyperus alternifolius* was planted out last summer, and by fall had grown so large there was no water-tight dish large enough to hold it, so I put it in a wooden keg that had been painted, but neglected to bore holes in the bottom for drainage. After a time the tips of the leaves began to turn yellow; even the new growth just peeping out of the ground appeared with a yellow tip. We thought it was getting too much sun, and changed its position, waiting patiently for a sign of recovery, but as time passed with no alteration we thought we were not giving it water enough, so kept the ground soaked for awhile. Finally the mystery was solved.* We found although it would grow in water, it was not fond of mud.

Perhaps I have given examples enough but would like to tell you of my flowering begonias. I had some beautiful varieties, nearly thirty in all, and they were my pride. Some time in December, I think, they began to behave strangely. I could not account for it for a long time. First the leaves dropped one by one, then they began dropping apart at the joints, until such a disreputable looking lot of plants I never saw.† I am not quite sure of the reason for this, but think they must have been chilled. I am now experimenting with what is left of them, by giving them warmer quarters. Of course it will take weeks for them to recover.

My *Impatiens sultani* did precisely the same thing, and I wonder if it was from being chilled?

I have been moved to write upon this subject because we read so much about success with flowers, and but little of failures. I know of many instances where window gardeners, with no knowledge whatever of the needs of certain plants, have splendid specimens,—rivaling those grown by experienced gardeners in greenhouses; and they say, "Oh, its only because we have good luck," when questioned as to their mode of culture. Yes, it is their good luck, I suppose, to stumble upon just the right kind of treatment.

*We grow this plant with perfect success in a glass vessel with a little sand in the bottom.

†The plants may be infested with some minute insect, such as thrips.

One of my neighbors has her south windows a blaze of glory all winter, but cannot grow callas, because she "never has any luck with them."

I am experimenting with gloxinia seed. It is the height of my ambition to own a collection of these right royal plants. I would like to hear from someone who has raised them.

May I add, in closing, that I made no mistake in ordering your Home Floriculture. It has explained many mysteries to me, and prevented many mistakes. I would not be without it for twice the cost.

NELLIE STEDMAN WHITE.

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FORMALDEHYDE.

Referring to the use of formaldehyde for preserving vegetable tissues, a subject which has been ventilated in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* during the past month, I may now, perhaps, be allowed to give a few more details than I was able to do in my last communication. This substance is now known in commerce under the name of formalin, and appears as a water-white solution. In a small pamphlet on formalin issued by Schering, of Berlin, the following description of the substance is given:

Formalin is the name of a saturated aqueous solution of 40 per cent. of formic aldehyde (CH_2O). Formic aldehyde is a gas prepared from wood-spirit and other alcoholic liquids by oxidation. It dissolves easily in water, and is called in commerce formalin. It can be readily employed in any strength. For most purposes a solution of formalin, consisting of one teaspoonful of the fluid to one quart of water suffices. In many cases, however, a much more dilute solution is sufficient. It is an excellent disinfectant and antiseptic, and is perfectly harmless. All kinds of food, such as meat, poultry, game, fish, fruit, etc., can be preserved by it. Fruit should be dipped in the formalin solution for about a minute, or wiped with a cloth moistened with it, in order to prevent external decomposition. As a preservative in which to keep fruits for museum purposes, a formalin solution of the strength here stated, has, so far, been successful in preserving their substance and shape for a period of about two years, for it must be remembered that the substance is a comparatively new introduction. For preserving colors, however, the results are not in all cases equally satisfactory; greens become changed to a yellowish tint, while yellows and reds are the most successful, especially the latter. The splendid bright crimson fruit of *Momordica cochinchinensis*, after immersion for about two years, show but very slight change, the fluid itself being only slightly tinged with yellow. In alcohol the bright-colored, fleshy fruits, quickly lose their color and become bleached; while in a saturated solution of salt-and-water the colors are fairly well retained for a year or two, after which the fruits themselves become soft and pulpy, and the colors, whether reds, greens, or yellows, have a faded appearance. The results, then, so far as time will yet allow us to speak, are in favor of formalin.—*John R. Jackson, in Gardeners' Chronicle.*

*The moist air of the greenhouse is much more favorable to plants in small pots than the air of the living-room.

†Chrysanthemums in the greenhouses will thrive in very small pots and they may even fill the pots with roots, without any especial check. The plants could not be supplied at the low price they now are if not kept in small pots until sent out. Of course, if not ordered until very late in the season they may become checked.

A LITTLE OUTING.



PARSON is a dear lover of an outing, when he can go at his leisure, in his own conveyance, stop when he pleases, or ramble at sweet will through the woods or over the prairies. Often

has he come upon rare treasures of flowers and shrubs which he had thought were confined to the East. Once in the edge of a little village he chanced to look over the fence in front of a cottage and saw the sweetest perennial phlox he has ever seen. It was a mother-of-pearl, with a lavender eye, if he is a judge of color. At another house, a farmstead, he discovered a syringa, new to him. There is an excellent taste developing in ornamental plants all over this section of the Republic. The indiscriminate slaughter of our song birds has entirely ceased, or nearly so. Boxes for wrens and martins and bluebirds are seen about every dwelling. A kinship between these summer citizens and the farmer is being recognized by both parties. The result is the bonds of friendship are close and they are growing.

Among the favorite plants seen everywhere is the hollyhock. Some spot about the dwelling is given over to the plants where they are allowed to grow as they please. To hoe up the weeds, or to prevent the encroachment of the bluegrass, is all the attention they receive. They propagate themselves; and the parson for his part had as lief, and a little rather, have singles and half-doubles as the wholly double. The latter, as a rule, is tender, and must be pretty closely looked after or it will die out. Ten feet square of hollyhocks is a sight to remember. The parson always stops when he discovers such a garden, that he may enjoy and admire it.

A number of plants popular with our grandmothers are as popular with the grandchildren now. The old-fashioned, clove-scented, garden pink is one of them. There are a number of shades of these and all exquisite. How fragrant they are! It is the fancied perfume of all the tropics,—nard, cassia and frankincense distilled into a delicate fairy grace and christened Garden Pink. And they are hardy. I wish every home had a lot of these pinks, and also of that other beauty, the white garden lily, *Candidum*. This lily, deservedly admired by all who know it, has stood drouth and neglect unscathed, while that tawny beauty, the tiger lily, nearly perished. The parson has two clumps of it. Does he want to see lily green in the midst of winter,—he goes out to the spot where his pet lies sleeping, pushes the drift aside with his foot, and there it is, green and cheerful. It is worth a good deal to be certain that life defies cold and ice and snow, the ministers of death, and lifts

itself up in the spring exultingly beautiful. So my white lily is worth its weight in gold for the suggestions it brings.

The conscience of the people is right, recognizing worth wherever found, and not easily letting go merit when they see it. So it is that the favorites of our forbears are ours also. Nor was the list a small one. Near where I write is a rose which came from beyond the Wabash, when the land was entered. It isn't very double, but it is very sweet. The grandmother who brought it all those miles in a wagon with the household stuff, has been sleeping for many years the death of the righteous. Her grave is on a bluff which overlooks a little river and the valley beyond; but the rose is her epitaph, and a memorial which keeps her name fragrant in many a home on the prairies where the parson has his home.

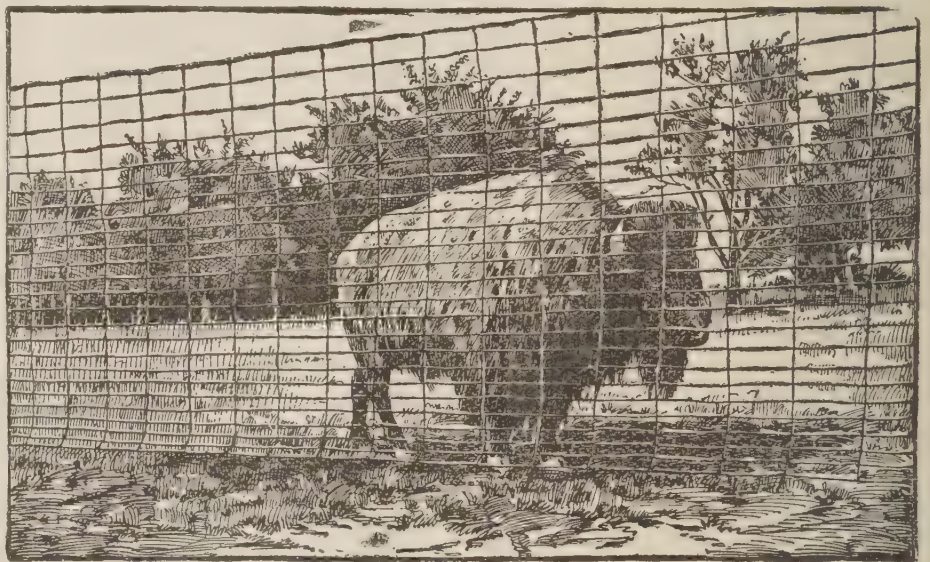
Bouncing Bet came also; homely as it is, it has pleasant associations. It is hardy; it can always be depended upon for bouquets, and in early days it was a garden flower,—which, with many, gave it a standing above those wild ones which gemmed the prairies, though often the wild ones were much more fragrant and beautiful. The parson, however, has thought that these children of the wilder-

ness seemed out of place in the midst of civilization. He is quite certain that somehow, he hardly knows how, they do not take kindly to culture,—but they do fit where nature placed them.

The peony came early, and was a great favorite. So did the sweet william, and poppy. The purple lilac was in the same bundle with the red and white currants, and the hardy pink (*dianthus*) was tied with sage and horehound. The parson knows where more than one of these first gardens are yet kept and cherished,—and will ride out of his way to get a peep or two at them. They are bits of antiquity. Perhaps we might better say the honored, lineal descendants of the Pilgrims, the Mynheers and Cavaliers, who in the centuries gone by brought of the gardens of their ancestry beyond billowy seas.

The parson is well acquainted with such as love his favorite pursuits. Is it any wonder that old Ball turns into the farmstead of his own accord, goes deliberately to the hitching post, stops, gives a glance back at the parson as if to say: "Tie me, and go and see madam's geraniums, and calla lily, and the cannas, and elephant's ears." It has been more than two weeks since you saw them, and you will hardly know them, they have grown so and are so full of bloom." So the parson goes in and almost stays out his welcome, the window is so charming with its red and white flowers, and its green and variegated foliage.

THE PARSON.



PRESERVING BIG GAME.

Commendable Instances of Private Enterprise.

ADRIAN, Michigan, June 30.—The recent death of Austin Corbin, the New England multi-millionaire, at his villa, near Newport, N. H., elicits special interest here. Mr. Corbin has the most extensive private preserve for large game that probably exists, covering 25,000 acres in the Blue Mountain Forest. On this magnificent range much of the Page Woven Wire Fence has been used, the works for the manufacture of which exist in this city.

The great financier had adopted the Adrian product in preference to all others. He had given much attention to preserving from extinction the American buffalo; and one of the stipulations submitted for enclosing his New Hampshire domain was that the fence should be proof against attempts to leap it, or break through, on the part of these powerful and agile animals.

Unlike barbed wire and analagous devices the Page product is a protection instead of a menace to animals within its enclosure. A short time ago he donated to the park commis-

sioners of New York, a number of bison from his Blue Mountain herd, with the condition that none but Page fencing be used to enclose them.

Stimulated by Mr. Corbin's example, the Page people have instituted a zoo of their own. A range of thirty-seven acres has been enclosed and in this the company has placed a number of deer and elk, with nine bison. These were obtained after considerable trouble and expense, so rare are full-blooded specimens of the American bison becoming. Nero, a superb animal weighing 2,000 pounds, died recently from injuries sustained in its transportation to the Adrian park, and has been mounted together with a beautiful elk, and donated to the museum of Adrian college.

Having succeeded so well in coraling the brawny bison, the Page people are now preparing a fence to enclose the elephants in Lincoln park, Chicago, and relieve the animals from the chains which keep them in subjection at the expense of their tempers and physical condition.

The company has also made a tender to the government to enclose a range at Yellowstone park, and save from depredation and loss the few buffalo that remain.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

FOR several years I have grown the improved artichoke, with the best of results. I am certain that they are valuable for feeding to hogs. My way of using the tubers is to feed all that the animals can eat, until a short time before killing, when I feed a few bushels of corn to harden the flesh. By so doing I save many bushels of corn. One acre of artichokes will keep from twenty to thirty hogs in the best condition, as they are always healthy when fed on them. For horses, cattle and sheep there is not a better root grown. One acre will produce from 300 to 700 bushels of tubers, depend-



JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

ing, of course, on the soil, although any soil will produce immense quantities. Low land which is too frosty for corn and many other crops, is just the place for them, as freezing does not hurt them. Drouth seems to have but little effect on them.

As many people know but comparatively little of the artichoke, I will, in a few words, describe them the best I can. First permit me to say that the improved kind is entirely different from the native or wild variety which is raised in some gardens. The Improved White French is a native of France, where it is largely grown for domestic use as well as for

stock. It grows about six feet in height and in the fall is covered with yellow blossoms, which in this country never mature seed,—hence no danger of covering the farm; I am aware many people are afraid to plant, thinking that if once planted they can never be eradicated; this is a mistake. My five years' experience has proved to me that they can be destroyed. My plan is to plow under when one foot in height; at this time the old tuber has decayed in giving life to the new top and no little ones are yet formed. A simpler way is to leave the hogs in the patch a little late in the spring and they will find every one.

The tubers are much like Irish potatoes in appearance, only rougher, flesh pure white, very brittle and sweet. Many farmers in Newaygo County are growing them extensively as a general farm crop. The artichoke is highly important, as no insect, blight or rust has yet struck it, and the tops make a good fodder, when properly handled. Last winter they were tested at the Fremont creamery with the best of results.

J. H. VANNESS.

Michigan.

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BIRDS AS SEED CARRIERS.

Two centuries ago the Dutch destroyed every nutmeg tree in the Moluccas, in order to enjoy a monopoly of the business, having planted the trees in their own possessions. In spite of their most earnest efforts, however, the islands were being constantly re-stocked. For a long time the thing was a mystery, but at length it was solved. The doves of that quarter of the world are of large size, and readily swallow the seed of the nutmeg, of the fruit of which they are very fond. Of wandering habits, and having great wing power, they traverse wide stretches of sea and land in a few hours, and deposit the seeds of the nutmeg not only uninjured, but better fitted for germination by the heat and moisture of the bird's system.

By a similar process thousands of acres of land have been covered with trees of different kinds, the birds acting as nature's agents in the dissemination of plants. But in quite another manner do they transport seeds from place to place. Darwin found in six grains of earth adhering to the feet of a plover three different kinds of seeds, and in the mud sticking to the feet of ducks and geese shot in England he found the seeds of plants peculiar to the Victoria Nyanza, in central Africa, thus proving not only the extent of migration, but also the possibility of plants appearing in strange localities through the agency of these birds.

In the mud sticking to the feet of a Texas steer the seeds of five different kinds of weeds and grasses common in Texas were found by a microscopist after the arrival of the animal in New York.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

COVERING FOR COLD-FRAMES.

In a recent number of the *American Florist*, Mr. Wm. Scratt, a well-known practical gardener, of Buffalo, N. Y., says:

I have used for covering cold-frames in the spring and fall a material known as patent plant bed cloth. The medium grade is thick enough, costing about seven cents per yard. After being fastened on the sash frames I gave it two coats of linseed oil, and as the sash has a dip of six inches in six feet very little water will pass through the cloth. There may be a composition that would render it absolutely waterproof, but while so doing I fancy it would render the cloth too opaque to grow plants under.



What This Boy Has Done

other bright, persevering boys can do and make money. Though only fifteen years old, Gerry B. Lawrence, Ashby, Mass., owns and manages a very successful poultry business. In January, 1896, at the largest poultry show ever held in America, his pure bred fowl won eight premiums, eleven specials, and nearly \$50 in cash. Yet he began in a very small way. There is no business a boy can carry on easier or with more profit than poultry raising. Every town or country boy can learn how to make money from

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SUCCESS WITH FLOWERS.

MY successes, as well as failures, in cultivating flowers are those of an amateur, and on a small scale, too, for we have only a regulation size city lot, and there any number of other demands on my time and strength. But flowers are an all-round necessity; meat and drink, as well as rest and recreation, and any number of other things would be left undone before I gave up growing them. To my thinking there is fully as much beauty in leaves as blossoms, and ten times more satisfaction and pleasure in growing a few choice kinds of flowers well, than in getting the greatest possible number and having a medley of colors that clash as badly as the ugliest crazy quilt that ever was made.

For the last mentioned reason I never grow blue hyacinths, salmon-pink geraniums, and various other plants that are pretty in themselves, but over-particular as to their immediate neighbors.

Commencing with the early flowering bulbs I manage to have a succession of flowers that are beautiful in the open ground as well as cut, until late frosts. Crocuses are most effective scattered over the lawn, and are done flowering before the latter needs cutting. Versicolor, Cloth of Gold and Cloth of Silver give a charming variety. I have not seen the new Monster Yellow, but the expectant thoughts of the clump I have planted will shorten more than one stormy winter's day.

If the blossoms of single tulips were only as lasting as the double ones, the doom of the latter would be sealed, for they have no other claim to superiority. An unexcelled collection of rose, pink, yellow and white single ones is Cottage Maid, Chrysolora, La Reine and Prosperine; and the same range of color in double ones will include Salvator Rosa, La Candeur, Murillo and Duke of York.

What was said of the comparative value of single and double tulips applies with equal force to hyacinths, and handsome as are the blue ones for the table and other indoor decorative uses, a bed of rose, pink, yellow and white is far handsomer than if blue of any shade were mixed with them. There may be better varieties of the combination of colors named than La Grandesse, Czar Peter, Gertrude and Heroine, but I have not found them.

Before my tulip and hyacinth beds are out of blossom dwarf tropæolum seeds are buried among them, and in a few weeks' time the beds are again a mass of gay colors, and give bouquets for the table for four months to come.

Room is found to grow mignonette, sweet alyssum, and a few other favorite annuals, but it is a bed of two dozen perpetual roses, and another of as many, or more, geraniums, that are a constant delight from spring until late fall. The

severe winter of 1895-'96, and mistaken kindness in covering too heavily the previous fall, gave me a sorry looking rose bed last spring. However, severe pruning and plenty of well rotted manure and water brought them up beautifully, and they never gave as many or as perfect blooms before. Indeed, from June until the middle of October there was never a week, scarcely a day, that we did not gather one or more bouquets. But their luxurious growth was not entirely due to plenty of food and drink,—for the first time I succeeded in ridding them of aphids or green lice, that in spite of tobacco stems or quassia had heretofore sapped more or less of their vigor and vitality. I used paris green and coal ashes in the proportion of one teaspoonful of the former to a quart of the latter. Sprinkle the bushes thoroughly first, then sift the mixture over them with a fine wire sieve. Let it remain for twenty-four hours, then wash off thoroughly. If the pests appear again, repeat the dose. Some of my favorite roses are Mrs. John Laing, Marshall P. Wilder, Pierre Notting, Baroness Rothschild, White Baroness, Mable Morrison, Alfred Colomb, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Victor Verdier, Margaret de St. Amande, François Levett, Earl of Dufferin, Ulrich Brunner and Paul Neyron.

If you have never seen geraniums planted out-of-doors in rich soil and a sunny situation, given a heavy mulch of well rotted stable manure in early summer and an abundance of water during the entire season, you can form little idea of the size and richness of coloring the foliage will take on. Indeed, if I were to go to the bed within a few feet of the window where I sit and take the measurement of the largest rose geranium leaves in it, their size would seem incredible. To be sure, geraniums less highly fed will give more blossoms, but there is no scarcity on mine, and there has not been a time in three months when every individual plant of single and double scarlet, single and double white, and Souvenir de Mirande was not well represented. The rose geranium buds were nipped off for two reasons: That the entire strength of the plant might be expended in growth and crowd itself in among the coarser foliage to lighten and refine it; and because even its little pink blossoms would disturb the color harmony of the bed.

Last, but not least, there is a triangular bed of luxuriant white anemones that look sturdy enough to withstand the chilling winds and frosts, and are unexcelled by any flower for purity and grace of bloom. Surely this easily grown plant, coming into bloom at a time when nearly all others are going out, is worthy of far more general cultivation than it receives.

CHARITY ANDREWS.

POTTING.

This is an operation which every beginner considers himself skilled in, but which is, nevertheless, often badly performed even by practical gardeners. The first point to be noticed is properly draining the pots. When a suitable outlet for the superfluous water is not made it is hopeless to expect success, for no plant can thrive in sour soil. In draining the smallest-sized pots one crock (piece of broken pot) over the hole in the bottom, with the concave side downward, covered with the roughest of the soil is generally enough. Indeed, a little rough soil in the case of strong-growing, strong-rooting plants is often enough. For plants in six-inch pots one large pot covered with rough, lumpy soil may be enough for balsams, or even Fuchsias, when growing rapidly. For heaths and plants of a similar nature, small crocks carefully arranged to the depth of fully an inch should cover the

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Highest Awards, Paris Exposition, 1878 and 1889, and Chicago, 1893.

central one, and over the small crocks a little moss or the fibre from the peat or loam, is necessary to prevent the soil stopping the drainage. For a twelve-inch pot from three to four inches of drainage will be necessary, and more according to size.

Having drained the pots, the next thing is placing in the soil. When the smallest pots are used for potting cuttings or seedlings enough soil should be placed in the pots, and pressed firmly down, that when the roots of the plant to be potted rest lightly on it the part of the stem which was at the surface of the soil before may be fully a quarter of an inch below the rim of the pot. Holding the plant in this position, in the center of the pot with the left hand, soil should be placed in the pot with the right, and pressed down firmly and level, the surface of the soil being a quarter of an inch below the rim of the pot. This space is for holding water. When the plants are to be taken out of cutting boxes each should be lifted out carefully with a good ball of earth, and only as much being carefully removed without bruising the roots as will reduce the ball so that it may be easily introduced into the pot intended for it.

When plants are to be shifted the same rule should be observed. Plants do not need shifting unless the soil in the pots is well occupied with roots, and it is considered desirable or necessary to increase the size of the plants. When the plants are turned out of the pots the drainage should be removed and any unoccupied soil carefully picked off. It should then be placed on the soil (which has been put in the pot and well firmed down previously,) and fresh soil packed, either with the fingers or a blunt piece of wood, rather firmly. Loose soil holds too much water and when plants which are potted loosely are turned out there is danger of the ball breaking, and so destroying the roots. When a plant is potted the new soil should always be put in as firm as the old ball is, or when the water is applied it will run through the loose soil and leave the firmer portion, where the roots are, too dry.

In potting large plants, soil as full of fibre as possible should be chosen, and rammed into the pots or tubs rather firmly. The reason for choosing turfy material for soil is that it lasts a long time without becoming sour. When quantities of soil, in which there is neither fibre nor roots, are packed into large pots or tubs, to remain there for years maybe, it is sure to become sour, sodden, and unhealthy, in which state no plant can grow well in it.

Repotting generally takes place in the spring, when plants that have rested through the winter have been pruned and started into growth require a partial shaking out and repotting in the same or similar pots. Fuchsias should be thus dealt with in spring, and so should any scarlet

or other pelargoniums which may have been brought over the winter, and which may be intended for growing on. Fancy pelargoniums require this treatment in autumn, when they have made fresh growth after having been ripened and pruned. Plants which have thus been treated do not need larger pots until some growth has been made, but the partial removal of the impoverished soil and supplying fresh soil is always accompanied with good results. In such cases the old balls should be turned out of the pots and reduced as much as will allow of this being easily replaced in the pots, and new soil along with them. Any loose roots should at the same time be cut back.

"Potting-off" is when plants in a small state are placed into pots for the first time. "Potting-on" is shifting plants to larger pots than they occupied; and "repotting" is turning plants out of their pots, reducing their balls, and placing them in the same or similar pots. When plants are potted enough room should be left in the pots as will hold as much water as will thoroughly saturate the soil contained in them. A quarter of an inch is enough to leave in a three-inch pot, half an inch in a four-and-a-half-inch pot, one inch in a six-inch pot, two inches in a ten-inch pot, and so on.—N., in *Journal of Horticulture*.

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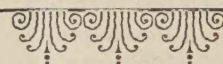
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